

PROJECT 100/3 RECORD

1. DATE - TIME GROUP 14 Jun 47	2. LOCATION Lakersfield, California
3. SOURCE Civilian	10. CONCLUSION Other (BIRDS)
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS 17	
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION Not reported	11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS Observer first sighted ten objects flying in V formation to the east, with one stragler. Later saw seven object flying in a V.
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground Visual	
7. COURSE 1. East 2. 100 deg	
8. PHOTOS <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

FORM
FTD SEP 63 0-329 (TDE) Previous editions of this form may be used.

UNCLASSIFIED

Incident
4AF 1208 I
14 July 1947

MEMORANDUM FOR THE OFFICER IN CHARGE:

1. On 10 July 1947, a check was made at the following locations in Palm Springs, California for the purpose of trying to locate Mr. ██████████. ██████████, Palm Springs Police Department, Palm Springs Newspaper, "The Desert Sun", Palm Springs Water Company, Southern California Gas Company, Palm Springs Telephone Company, Palm Springs Employment Office, Palm Springs Chamber of Commerce, Royal Palms Hotel, 5 Palm Springs real estate offices, and the City Offices of Palm Springs including waste disposal, water rights, tax records and etc. No record of Mr. ██████████ existed in any of the above mentioned offices.

2. On 11 July 1947, Mr. Ryland M. Gorham, Postmaster of Palm Springs, California for the past 14 years was interviewed. Mr. Gorham stated that he had lived in Palm Springs for the past 24 years and that he was unaware if a person named ██████████ had ever lived in Palm Springs. Mr. Gorham stated that due to the fact that Palm Springs is a resort area and due to the fact that in the summer months only 3 to 5 thousand people resided in Palm Springs, whereas in the winter months 10 to 12 thousand resided in Palm Springs, it was very possible that Mr. ██████████ could have lived in Palm Springs more or less on a non-permanent status and he, Mr. Gorham, not being aware of it.

A check of General Delivery records revealed a letter addressed to Mr. ██████████, Palm Springs, mailed from Cicero, Indiana, postmarked at Cicero, Indiana July 1947, at 5 P.M. The return address on the envelope was listed as the Gospel Tract Worker, Route 1, Cicero, Indiana. Mr. Gorham permitted the contents of the envelope to be examined inasmuch as the contents was 3rd Class material and the envelope not sealed. The records were of a religious nature concerning the sad plight of American non-church goers, the second coming of Christ and etc. Superintendent of Mails was contacted by Mr. Gorham and stated that there was a Mr. ██████████ who had received mail through the general delivery office of the Palm Springs Post Office, but that the last mail, other than the letter mentioned above, came through the Post Office approximately two years ago. The Superintendent of Mails seem to have a very uncanny memory and recalled where the mail coming in for ██████████ had been addressed to. This mail was addressed to Mr. ██████████ in care of a trailer camp located in Palm Springs. On calling the trailer camp office, it was found that Mr. ██████████ had lived in the camp but departed approximately two years ago and left no forwarding address. Investigation is continuing in an effort to locate Mr. ██████████ and obtain a statement from him.

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FRANK M. BROWN, S/A, CIC 4th AF

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HEADQUARTERS FOURTH AIR FORCE
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL
HAMILTON FIELD, CALIFORNIA

4AFDA 10
333.5 ID

5 AUG

SUBJECT: Investigation of "Flying Discs"

TO: Commanding General, Army Air Forces, Washington 25, D. C.
ATTENTION: AC of AS-2

1. Attached statement and newspaper clipping forwarded your office per request of TWX from Headquarters Air Defense Command, Mitchel Field, New York, dated 10 July 47.

2. Information copy furnished Headquarters Air Defense Command.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

William J. Turner

WILLIAM J. TURNER,
Col., U. S. Army,
Asst. Adjutant General.

2 Incls:

1. Statement re [REDACTED], dtd 30 Jul. (dup)
2. Newspaper clipping, dtd 3 Jul (dup)

DECLASSIFIED AT 10 YEAR
INTERVALS; NOT EARLIER THAN
DECLASSIFIED. DOD DIR 3210.10

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Incident #85 -- cancelled -- see #29

Pilot Recalls Seeing Discs

Dick Rankin Tells Of Odd Aircraft

More reports of "flying flap-jacks" turned up Wednesday, one from no less than Dick Rankin, brother of the late Tex Rankin, and himself an experienced pilot of more than 7000 hours' flying time.

Rankin, who is recovering from an old back injury received in an automobile accident, came to Portland over the week end to spend the summer. He saw the "silver saucers" over Bakersfield, Cal., June 23, while lying on the lawn sun bathing, he told *The Oregonian*.

"I hesitated to say much about them," Rankin said, "until I noticed all the hullabaloo in the papers. I puzzled over their strange shape for a while and finally concluded that they were the navy's new XF5U-1 flying flapjacks, which are thin and round, with twin propellers and stubby tail."

Only One XF5U-1 Built

(The navy and the manufacturer have announced officially that only one such machine was built and that it never left Connecticut.

"These planes were flying high, maybe 9000 feet, and fairly fast, about 300 or 400 miles an hour. I first counted ten of them in formation, going north. About 2:15 P. M. they returned on the reverse course, headed south. But there were only seven in the formation.

THE OREGONIAN, THURSDAY, JULY 3, 1947

11

"THE OREGONIAN" Portland, Oregon.

3 July 1947

"They were not weaving or bobbing in formation I couldn't make out the number or location of their propellers and couldn't distinguish any wings or tail. They appeared almost round. They looked like pictures of the navy's flying flapjack!" Rankin said.

Rankin, who plans to spend the summer here at 834 N. E. Simpson street, is now able to resume a little flying for fun, but not commercially, he said. He now operates a string of auto courts, spending his winters at Palm Springs.

Two Descriptions Check

Rankin's description of the mysterious aerial objects agrees with that of Kenneth Arnold, Boise, Idaho, business man, who first reported them over the state of Washington, except that Arnold clocked them at an estimated 1200 miles an hour.

Other reports came Wednesday from Astoria.

Jack Hayes, patient in St. Mary's hospital there, said he saw two of the discs Monday flying ~~southwest~~ at a rapid speed and that they vanished behind the hills.

Mrs. Earl Seado, Fort Stevens, said she saw a disc traveling north over Fort Stevens Tuesday noon, and that other observers saw the same object.

The army at Fort Stevens and the coast guard at nearby Point Adams did not see the discs.

The report of a Centralia, Wash., man Wednesday coincided in matter of time with the original report made by Arnold. Sidney B. Gallagher of Centralia said he saw nine aluminum-hued objects flying north at 3 P. M. June 24. He was working 11 miles southwest of Mineral, Wash., at the time.

Over California by Veteran Pilot

M. C. Tammey

(The Associated Press) Ore., July 1.—A vet-Pacific coast pilot, Richard Rankin, today reported seeing the "saucers" over California, a controversial "secret."

Experts have questioned whether they exist—were high Bakersfield June 23, said in, a former Portland flier now lives in Palm Springs.

These planes were maybe 9000 up and fairly fast, maybe 300-400 miles an hour. I first saw 10 of them in formation, north. About 2:15 p.m. they turned in the reverse course, south, but there were only seven in the formation. . . . I didn't make out the number or location of their propellers and didn't distinguish any wings or

They appeared almost round, looked just like pictures of navy's Flying Flapjack," Rankin told a reporter.

The navy, however, has reported its Flying Flapjack—the XF5U-1—has never left Connecticut.

Rankin, brother of the late stunt flier Tex Rankin, and a flier with more than 7000 hours in the air himself, said he hesitated to report what he saw until he read where others had reported the "saucers." He said he observed them from the ground.

Meanwhile new reports came in from Pacific Northwest residents. Two Portlanders, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Balliet, who said they "didn't believe the story" when they read it in the newspapers reported they saw at least 10 of them flying noiselessly over the Columbia river about noon today.

Shortly after Mrs. R. A. Hunt, wife of the Jefferson county agent at Madras, Ore., 100 miles south east of Portland, said she saw six of them high overhead.

"Flying Saucers"

PORLAND, Ore., July 2.—(AP)—The report of a long-time West Coast pilot was added today to the growing accounts of "flying saucers" over the West.

Richard Rankin, veteran of more than 7000 hours in the air, said he saw the much-debated mystery disks high over Bakersfield, Calif., going "maybe 300 or 400 miles an hour."

There were 10 in formation flying north, he told a reporter, but when "they returned on the reverse course, headed south, there were only seven . . .

"I couldn't make out the number or location of their propellers and couldn't distinguish any wings or tail. They appeared almost round," he said.

Rankin said he saw them June 23, but hesitated to describe what he saw until he noted others were reporting the same thing.

Ten Flying Disk

NY HERALD TRIBUNE
Seen at Bakersfield, Calif.
Also Over Portland

PORLAND, Ore., July 2.—(AP)

The report of a long-time West Coast pilot was added today to the growing accounts of "flying saucers" over the West.

Richard Rankin, veteran of more than 7000 hours in the air, said he saw the much-debated mysterious disks over Bakersfield, Calif., and going "maybe 300 or 400 miles an hour."

There were ten in formation flying north, he told a reporter, but when "they returned on the reverse course, headed south, there were only seven."

"I couldn't make out the number or location of their propellers and couldn't distinguish any wings or tail," he said. "They appeared almost round."

Mr. Rankin said he saw them June 23, but hesitated to describe what he saw until he noted others were reporting the same thing.

New reports meanwhile came in from three Oregon cities, Astoria, Madras and Portland. Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Balliet, of Portland, said they saw at least ten of the "saucers" winging noiselessly high over the Columbia River yesterday.

JUL 3 1947

Phila Egg Bed 2 July 47 Veteran Airman Joins Ranks of 'Flying Saucer' Witnesses

Portland, Ore., July 2—(AP)—A report of a long-time West Coast pilot was added today to the growing accounts of "flying saucers" over the West.

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There were ten in formation flying north, he told a reporter, but when "they returned on the reverse course, headed south, there were only seven.

"I couldn't make out the number or location of their propellers and didn't distinguish any wings or tail. They appeared almost round," he said.

Rankin said he saw them from the ground on June 23, but hesitated to describe what he saw until he noted others were reporting the same thing.

At first, he continued, he assumed he had seen the XF-5U-1, the experimental Navy "flying flapjack." The Navy since has announced it has only one XF-5U-1, and it has not left Connecticut.

New reports, meanwhile, came from three Oregon cities, Astoria, Madras and Portland. The Portlanders making the report, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Balliet, said they dis-

Plane Vet Reports Seeing 'Flying Saucers' June 23

DENVER POST
PORTLAND, Ore., July 2.—(AP)—The report of a long-time west coast pilot was added Wednesday to the growing accounts of "flying saucers" over the west.

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There were ten in formation flying north, he told a reporter, but when "they returned on the reverse course, headed south, there were only seven. . . .

JUL 2 1947 "ALMOST ROUND."

"I couldn't make out the number or location of their propellers and couldn't distinguish any wings or tail. They appeared almost round," he said.

Rankin said he saw them June 23, but hesitated to describe what he saw until he noted others were reporting the same thing.

At first, he continued, he assumed he had seen the XF5U-1, the experimental navy "flying flapjack." The navy since has announced it has only one XF5U-1, and it has not left Connecticut.

Rankin, ex-Portlander who now lives in Palm Springs, Calif., and a brother of the late John G. (Tex) Rankin, pioneer stunt flier, said he observed the "planes" from the ground.

MORE REPORTS.

New reports meanwhile came in from three Oregon cities, Astoria, Madras and Portland. The Portlanders making the report, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Balliet, said they dis-

believed stories about the "saucers" until they saw at least ten of them winging noiselessly high over the Columbia river Tuesday.

Still another such account came from four states away. At Albuquerque, N. M., Max Hood, Chamber of Commerce executive, told of seeing "a disc-like bluish object following a zig-zag path in the northwestern sky" only Tuesday night. It disappeared in about half a minute, he said.

There have been similar reports the past several days from other points in New Mexico, west Texas and Oklahoma.

Incident No. 29 — 14 June 1947, 1200 and 1415, Bakersfield, Calif.
The observer, an experienced pilot, reported sighting ten and later seven
objects at 3500 ft altitude, traveling 350 MPH in a loose "V" formation.
Although the objects were apparently at a considerable distance, the reporter
described them as being similar to the XF5U-1 "Flying Flapjack." He stated
that he attached no particular importance to this sighting until he read of
the Cascade Mountain sighting, (Incident No. 17). He then recalled this in-
cident.

AMC Opinion: There is no information contained in this report to refute
the assumption that these objects were ordinary aircraft beyond the range of
identification. The fact that no one else in Bakersfield reported observing
anything unusual, tends to substantiate this conclusion.

BAKERFIELD, CALIFORNIA

Incident #29 -- Portland, Oregon -- 14 June 1947

There is nothing whatever in this incident to suggest that the objects observed were of astronomical origin. Their maneuvers and the relatively long time they were in sight definitely preclude any possible astronomical interpretation.

It is of interest to note that in this locality and at this season other possibly-similar, non-astronomical incidents were reported -- e.g., #17 and #68.

Dr HYNEK'S EVALUATIONS EXTRACTED FROM PROJECT GRUDGE REPORT.

INCIDENT INDEX

1. Astronomical

a. High probability:

#26, 27, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 48, 49, 59, 60, 66, 69, 70, 94,
95, 96, 97, 98, 101, 102, 103, 104, 116, 119, 132, 138, 140,
147, 148, 158, 174, 184, 185, 187, 197, 203, 204, 208, 216,
219, 238.

b. Fair or low probability:

#19, 20, 23, 24, 28, 35, 36, 46, 50, 63, 67, 80, 82, 93, 100,
112, 120, 121, 129, 130, 144, 153, 165, 166, 167, 175, 192,
199, 202, 205, 220, 230, 240.

2. Non-astronomical but suggestive of other explanations

a. Balloons or ordinary aircraft:

#3, 11, 22, 41, 42, 53, 54, 73, 81, 83, 91, 92, 113, 114, 115,
126, 131, 138, 141, 145, 155, 156, 157, 159, 160, 161, 163,
169, 171, 173, 178, 180, 182, 188, 190, 194, 195, 196, 198,
200, 201, 209, 210, 217, 222, 235, 237, 239.

b. Rockets, flares or falling bodies:

#4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 25, 56, 65, 78, 106, 107,
108, 109, 133, 170, 211, 218.

c. Miscellaneous (reflections, auroral streamers, birds, etc.):

#39, 89, 123, 124, 128, 146, 164, 181, 189, 214, 221, 231, 234.

3. Non-astronomical, with no explanation evident

a. Lack of evidence precludes explanation:

#38, 44, 45, 47, 55, 57, 72, 86, 87, 88, 90, 99, 110, 117, 118,
125, 127, 137, 139, 149, 150, 177, 179, 191, 206, 212, 213,
229, 232, 233.

b. Evidence offered suggests no explanation:

#1, 2, 10, 17, 21, (29), 37, 40, 51, 52, 58, 61, 62, 64, 68, 71,
75, 76, 77, 79, 84, 105, 111, 122, 135, 151, 152, 154, 162,
168, 172, 176, 183, 186, 193, 207, 215, 223, 224, 225, 226,
227, 236, 241, 242, 243, 244, 134.

With 201 incidents thus eliminated, there remain thirty-four which contain some evidence but have no apparent ready explanation. This statement is true only under the assumption that the evidence is accepted as reliable and accurate. When psychological and physiological factors are taken into consideration, all of these incidents can be explained rationally, as pointed out by Rand Corporation and by Fitts of Air Materiel Command Aero-Medical Laboratory (see "B" and "G").

Air Materiel Command Aero-Medical Laboratory (See
212 Incidents considered)

There are sufficient psychological explanations for the reports of unidentified flying objects to provide plausible explanations for reports not otherwise explainable. These errors in identifying real stimuli result chiefly from inability to estimate speed, distance, size.

All of the remaining 34 incidents are treated in detail in this report. These incidents form no pattern in regard to area of sighting, type of object, or manner of performance. There are indications, however, that some sightings were influenced by earlier reports, probably would not have been considered unusual or reported if there had been no publicity.

APPENDIX I

Project Grudge

Summary of AMG Evaluation of Remaining Reports

VII. Summary of AMG Evaluation of Remaining Reports

The remaining unexplained incidents (see Appendix "I") exhibit no common characteristics. Two of them, by statements of the reporters, could not have been made had the witnesses not read of the 1st Jan. incident (Incident No. 17). Most were distributed without pattern throughout the United States. A few were outside the U. S. No two descriptions of appearance or performance were exactly alike. The reported sightings occurred at various times of day and year.

APPENDIX I

In the following section of this report, each remaining unexplained incident is considered separately. It is not the intent to generally discredit the character of observers, but each case has undesirable elements, and these cannot be disregarded. The numerical designation is merely the categorical order of the incident in the project files.

1, 10, 17, 21, 29, 35, 37, 40, 51, 58, 62, 64, 68, 71, 75, 76, 77, 79, 84,
111, 122, 134, 135, 151, 152, 154, 162, 168, 176, 183, 186, 193, 207, 215, 236.

~~SECRET~~
UNCLASSIFIED

CHECK-LIST - UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

Incident #23

1. Date 14 June 1947
2. Time 1200 noon first time later at 1415 approximately
3. Location ~~EXCELSIOR~~ Badenfield Portland, Oregon Calif Aug 1
4. Name of observer [REDACTED]
5. Occupation of observer Pilot
6. Address of observer [REDACTED], California
7. Place of observation Ground Front yard
8. Number of objects 10 first time 7 second time
9. Distance of object from observer Not stated
10. Time in sight Not stated
11. Altitude 8500 feet
12. Speed 350 miles per hour
13. Direction of flight First group South to North. Second group North to South
14. Tactics Flying in "V" formation with one object straggling in the rear
15. Sound Not stated
16. Size Resembled the XF5U-1
17. Color Not stated
18. Shape resembled the XF5U-1, the so called "Flying Flapjack"
19. Odor detected Not Stated
20. Apparent construction flying machines
21. Exhaust trails Not stated
22. Weather conditions Clear and Sunny
23. Effect on clouds Not Stated
24. Sketches or photographs None
25. Manner of disappearance Not Stated
26. Remarks: (Over) UNCLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED
INT-100-100-000-000-000
DOWNGRADED AT 12:00 PM 12/12/2000

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At approximately 1200 noon on the 14 of June I was lying in the front yard of my home. There was a lad mowing the lawn at the time. I looked into the sky and saw ten articles flying from the South to the North at what I would judge to be 8500 ft. The objects were flying at approximately what I would judge to be 350 miles per hour. I distinctly remember that at the time I saw the articles I mentioned it to the lad who was mowing the lawn at the time. I told the lad that the objects were in all probability some sort of Army or Navy test planes from the nearby test centers on the deserts of Southern California. The objects resembled the pictures that I have seen of the XF5U-1, the so called "Flying Flapjack" that the Navy is testing. At approximately 1415 I went back into the yard to sit and lie in the shade. At this time the objects reappeared going from North to South, although this time there were only seven of the articles. When I first saw the original ten objects they were flying in a "v" formation with one object seemingly straggling in the rear of the formation. When the objects appeared the second time they were still in the "V" formation although there was only seven of the objects at this time. I remember at this time that I told the lad, who was still working on the lawn, that probably three of the objects had proceeded back to their base on a different course. I actually thought that this was the case, that the other three objects had probably gone back to their base on the other side of the mountains from Bakersfield. I am firmly convinced that the articles I saw are actually some sort of flying machines although I cannot say from where they came or to where they were going.

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PORLAND, OREGON
30 July 1947

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O-B-R-T-J-M-T-C-A-P-U

On 30 July 1947 Mr [REDACTED] of [REDACTED],
Portland, Oregon was interviewed by this agent and stated in substance
follows:

My name is [REDACTED]. I am 47 years old and have flown since
I was nineteen years old. I first soloed in an air craft in 1919. I have flown
over all the western parts of the United States many times and have mapped
all of the western part of the United States during the years before the

late war for the US Forest Service. I am familiar with almost every part of
the western United States. During a great part of my life I have done stunt
flying for air shows and various other types of aeronautical exhibitions. My
brother was "Tex" Rankin who was quite well known in both civilian and Military
flying circles for many years before his death and during the late war ran
thousands of Flying Cadets through primary training schools owned and oper-
ated by him. To date I have accomplished 7000 hours in the air as pilot of
both civilian and Military aircraft. I am well acquainted with most articles
that one would see in the air and I feel that I am well qualified to say
when I see articles flying through the air, although I would not attempt to
say that I am infallible and state that I could definitely identify every
object that might be flying through the air. The following is an account of
what I saw on 14 June 1947 from the yard of my home at [REDACTED],
Bakersfield, California.

At approximately 1200 noon on the 14 of June I was lying in the
front yard of my home. There was a lad mowing the lawn at the time. I looked
up into the sky and saw ten articles flying from the South to the North at what
I would judge to be 8500 ft. The objects were flying at approximately what I
would judge to be 350 miles per hour. As I have stated before, I have done
quite a lot of map work for the US Forest Service. I distinctly remember that
at the time I saw the articles I mentioned it to the lad who was mowing the
lawn at the time. I told the lad that the objects were in all probability
some sort of Army or Navy test planes from the nearby test centers on the
deserts of Southern California. Having quite a knowledge of aircraft in
general I attempted to explain to the lad mowing the lawn that the objects
were probably on some sort of training mission for either the Army or Navy.
At that time I did not give the slightest thought to anything but that the
objects were some sort of test ship for the Government Services. The objects
resembled the pictures that I have seen of the XF5U-1, the so called "Flying
Flapjack" that the Navy is testing. After the objects disappeared I
proceeded into the house and had my noon meal. At approximately 1415 I went
back into the yard to sit and lie in the shade. At this time the objects re-
appeared going from South to North, although this time there were only seven
of the articles. When I first saw the original ten objects they were flying
in a "V" formation with one object seemingly straggling in the rear of the
formation. When the objects appeared the second time they were still in the
"V" formation although there was only seven of the objects at this time. I
remember at this time that I told the lad, who was still working on the lawn,
that probably three of the objects had proceeded back to their base on a dif-
ferent course. I actually thought that this was the case, that the other three
objects had probably gone back to their base on the other side of the mountains
from Bakersfield. A week or so later when I read of Mr Kenneth Arnold claiming
that he had seen articles flying through the air over the Cascade Mountains in

UNCLASSIFIED

CCO [REDACTED]

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

UNCL / ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ Washington I realized that the articles ~~that~~ I saw were probably the same thing. I was still reluctant to mention this to anyone thinking that they would probably say that I was crazy. After sometime I mentioned this incident to the editor of the "Oregonian", a Portland, Oregon newspaper. At this time I was in Portland for the remainder of the summer. The results of the conversation with the editor of the paper is put forth in the accompanying newspaper article.

I fully realize that this is a broad statement in view of the fact that there has been so much publicity ~~nowhere~~ put forth in various newspapers of the country. I am of sound mind in every respect and I am firmly convinced that the articles I saw are actually some sort of flying machines although I cannot say from where they came or to where they were going. I say what I have said with no idea of publicity or personal gain.

SIGNED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
Portland, Oregon
30 July 1947

RECEIVED

SL 49-28 P 11-10

RECEIVED
FBI - PORTLAND
JULY 30 1947